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which will reduce the delay in the arrival of the day when it can be considered a really useful, practical agent. But that day will not come, apparently, until two distinct, unrelated problems in science are solved. The first of these is the continuous production of the gas at lower cost than it is made today. The second problem is presented by the needed development of an absolutely certain, complete and continuous mixing of the ozone and water. Every atom of water must be brought into direct contact with the ozonized air in the large-scale operations of practical water supply. The successful small-scale operations of the laboratory are not always certain proof of the practical, large-scale value of a delicate chemical process.

The writer has followed the development of ozonization for twenty years or so and has found it most interesting, even alluring, but up to date it is experimental, not practical. He cannot share fully the optimism of Mr. Ellms about this method of treatment. After years of experiment conducted with all the technical and financial resources of great American and European electrical manufacturing companies and after many private studies by consulting specialists, no substantial progress has been made for a good many years in the practical treatment of large quantities of water. A new discovery may change this condition at any time, but there is no hint of such a discovery heard today in scientific and technical circles. The very fact that the manufacturers of the apparatus which would be used in this method of disinfection have apparently abandoned it for the time being as a desirable field for exploitation is significant.

GEORGE A. JOHNSON.

#### QUESTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE

At the Buffalo convention, a number of topics were brought up for discussion, but for one reason or another the amount of information elicited was meager. Many members of the Association can contribute notes on these subjects which will prove of material help to those who have asked for such statements. The Publication Committee therefore requests the members to send to the editor of the JOURNAL an outline of their experience in the following matters, in order that fairly complete data on them may be compiled and published at an early date:

1. How may leaks due to cracks in the bottom of a concrete reservoir be stopped?

A method which D. A. Reed reported as successful is to cut a groove, half an inch wide and about three-fourths of an inch deep, along the crack with a chisel, and then calk the groove with hemp and asphaltum. Let every person who has attempted such repairs, with successful or unsuccessful results, report his experience to the JOURNAL's editor, in order that this really important feature of maintenance work may be properly covered in the Association's records.

2. Where foot valves on the suction pipes of centrifugal pumps are broken by water hammer when the pump stops, what remedy has proved successful?

At the Brantford water works, David L. Webster obtained relief, after losing three foot valves in a very short time, by placing multi-port check valves on the discharge pipes. The subject is an important one, for accidents of this nature are of frequent occurrence. Let the editor of the JOURNAL know about such accidents, in order that data concerning them may be compiled, and let him know how the trouble was remedied.

3. What experience have members had with electrolysis where electric light companies ground alternating current wires on water services? How were the grounds made, what was the electric distribution system, and how was the electrolysis manifested?

The electrical experts say that theoretically there is no danger of electrolysis where alternating currents are used, but there have been about a dozen cases of it at Cooperstown, Pa., according to Homer C. Crawford, and a quite serious case where a meter was destroyed at Cortland, N. Y., according to G. T. Maxon. The subject is one which is attracting considerable attention over a wide section of the country, in spite of the pretty pictures drawn by electrical experts to show that there is no such thing. The accumulation of definite information of cases of electrolysis under such conditions will be a great help at this time, because if the electrical interests are right then water works managers have some new kind of trouble to study, and if they are wrong then it is high time for them to modify their assertions that alternating currents cannot harm metal conductors used as grounds.

4. How often should hydrants be inspected for frost? What rules have been found satisfactory in controlling the use of hydrants by persons not connected with the water department? Is there any method of setting hydrants that has been found particularly good in keeping down injury by frost?

Here are old questions, whose recurrence shows that the subject of frost action on hydrants and the control of the use of hydrants is as vital today as it was when the Association was a baby. Plainly there is an opportunity for the Publication Committee to render a real service by compiling the experience of the members on these topics, so that each member will please consider that the questions are addressed to him personally by the Publication Committee with an urgent request to report promptly and fully on them to the editor of the JOURNAL.

5. What is a satisfactory method of cleaning service pipes which become seriously clogged by incrustation or deposits?

Members who can contribute information on this subject are asked to explain in detail the construction of the appliances used and the method of handling them. This need of definite detailed information is shown by the following incident. The service pipe supplying the house of a member of the Publication Committee became clogged. The water is furnished by works managed by another member of the Publication Committee, who advised asking a local plumber to ream out the pipe. All the local plumbers said they never heard of such an operation and had no reamers. The manager of a well known water main cleaning company advised attaching a force pump to the house end of the service pipe and forcing a wad of tissue paper against the street pressure. The local plumbing talent threw up its several hands and said it simply could not be done, and the method was probably proposed as a joke. Now there are a number of published records of such work being done by both methods but nothing definite concerning just how to do it by either method or about the kind of deposits or incrustation which has been removed. Manifestly a soft deposit can be removed more easily than hard incrustation.

The attention of every member is called to these questions, for they are on subjects which the Buffalo convention was asked to discuss and failed to discuss fully. The Association was organized in order to enable such information to be gathered and disseminated in the easiest way. The JOURNAL is published for the purpose of giving to every member just such information, provided the membership will contribute a little time to send statements of their experience to its editor.

At the meeting of the New York Section on October 22 there was a discussion of the desirability of making the JOURNAL of more

help to the members by carrying a Question Box section in it, where questions by members and answers to these questions can be printed. It is a rule of experienced journalists not to start things that are not desired by readers. There is no proof in the hands of the Publication Committee now that such a section in the JOURNAL is desirable as a regular feature. But there is perfectly definite proof, which has just been stated, that information is desired by members on five subjects. If the members will furnish this information, and if other questions are submitted to the editor in order to obtain the information regarding them which the membership possesses, then the Publication Committee will be able to plan giving such service in the best practicable manner.

There is no doubt in the mind of the writer that the JOURNAL can be made a very useful medium for the exchange of practical information. Whether this is a practicable proposition will depend upon the members themselves, however, for they must take part in the work to the extent of sending their questions to the editor and in supplying him with a statement of their experience on subjects about which questions are asked. It is manifestly impracticable to send a letter of inquiry to each member about each question. The inquiries can only be made in the JOURNAL, like the five already referred to. Each member should consider that these questions are asked him individually and keep in mind that his coöperation in answering them means so much additional help in making our Association a truly mutual benefit organization.

JOHN M. GOODELL.